



September 11, 2020



On the Road & In the News in Pennsylvania

I can't think of a better way to start a road trip than with an announcement of additional Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative funding. I had the pleasure of joining Housing Authority of the County of Beaver Executive Director Brian Yaworsky, Beaver County Children and Youth Services Administrator Lesley Hallas, Beaver County Continuum of Care Coordinator Dina Ciabattini and other local partners in announcing Beaver County's fourth voucher recipient.



FYI aims to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under the age of 25 who are in, or have recently left, the foster care system without stable housing. In collaboration with local resources, the initiative assists communities in ensuring these young adults have access to safe, affordable housing while giving them the support they need to achieve their education and employment goals to reach self-sufficiency.

At last week's announcement in Beaver, Pennsylvania, Alyssa Somerville expressed deep gratitude for receiving an FYI voucher through the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver, which the [Beaver County Times](#) later captured in a heartfelt quote. *Photograph courtesy of the Beaver County Times.*

"I would not be anywhere near where I am without this," said Somerville, who is eight months pregnant. "I'm just so grateful because I'd still be sitting in placement right now with nowhere to go. I'm in recovery, and I like this program because it doesn't look at my past. They see me for who I am."



In New Castle, Pa.

As part of our ongoing outreach to counties and cities across the region, we traveled to western Pennsylvania this week with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development's Curt Coccodrilli and U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region's Cosmo Servidio for several Opportunity Zone roundtables. First stop was New Castle, Pa., with Mayor Chris Frye.



In McKeesport, Pa.

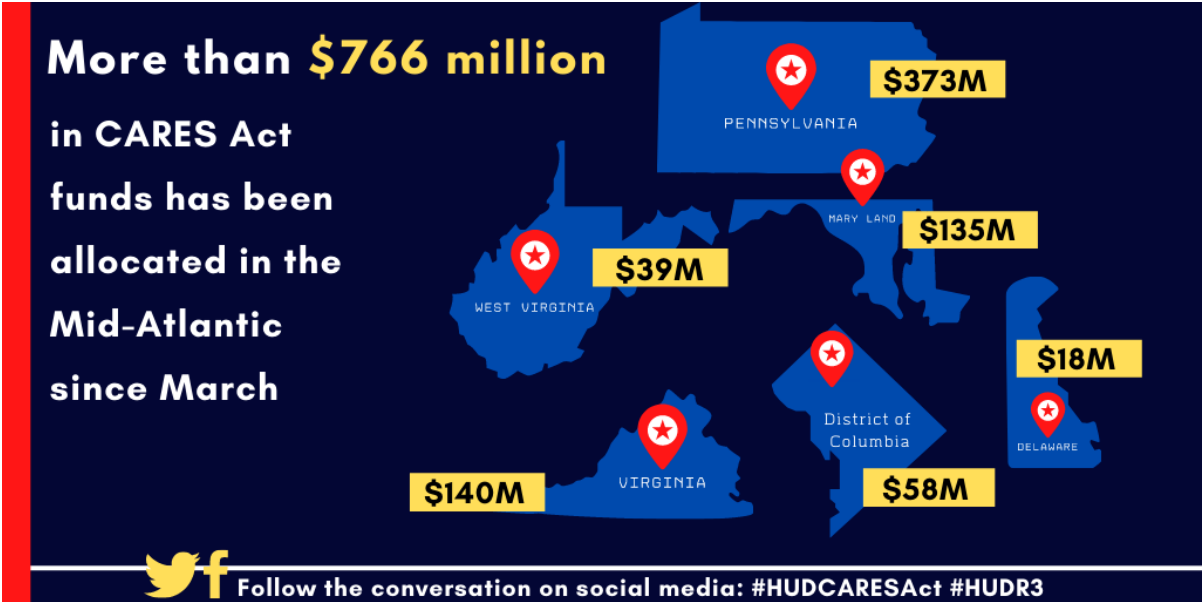
Second stop on last week's western Pennsylvania trip was for a roundtable discussion with City of McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko, business owners, elected officials, community leaders and members of his team. "McKeesport needs a team of 'cheerleaders' to sell the city's advantages to prospective investors," I was quoted in the [Tube City Almanac](#). Thanks, to

Senator Jim Brewster for taking the time to join us. While in McKeesport, I posed for a photo with EPA Region III Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio, McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko and USDA-RD Pennsylvania Director Curt Coccodrilli. Photo courtesy of Mayor Michael Cherepko's office.

In Aliquippa, Pa.

The last stop on our Pennsylvania Opportunity Zone Road Trip was Aliquippa with Mayor Dwan Walker and his team. It was my third trip there. We are building capacity to capitalize on Opportunity Zone investments and cutting impediments for cross government collaboration. The area has so much potential.

Pictured with me second from left are (from left to right) are Mayor of Aliquippa Dwan Walker, Councilwoman Jennifer Milliner, USDA-RD Pennsylvania State Director Curt Coccodrilli and Councilman Donald Walker III.



Of the \$12 billion in HUD relief aid from the CARES Act, so far, more than \$766 million has been allocated in the Mid-Atlantic region. HUD continues to remind all its grantees (states, cities, communities, and nonprofits) who received Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that they may use these funds to provide rental assistance or other aid to individuals experiencing financial hardship because of the pandemic and are at risk of being evicted, consistent with applicable laws, regulations and guidance.



Summer Reading Series with Secretary Carson Continues
You'll find a special treat in the latest video of Summer Reading with Secretary Carson.

Marissa Regni, Principal Second Violin with the National Symphony Orchestra, joins Secretary Carson to read “Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!” by Lloyd Moss at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In addition to reading, the series will also highlight several of HUD’s initiatives that focus on educational advancement, such as the EnVision Center initiative and Book Rich Environments. To view the video [click here](#).

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Fiscal Year 2020 Choice Neighborhoods

Implementation Grants. With the publication of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HUD is making available up to \$182,000,000 for Implementation Grants. Posted on www.grants.gov, applications are due on December 16, 2020. Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood; improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children’s education, and create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families’ choices about their community. Since 2010, six \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants have been awarded in Region III including Baltimore, Maryland, Newport News and Norfolk in Virginia and in Philadelphia (2 awards) and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **That’s a total of \$180 million invested in improving communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic.**



September is National Preparedness Month. Build a kit that's stocked with enough supplies for several days, including what is needed to protect you and your family from COVID-19. Consider the unique needs of your family. For more information, [click here](#).



Nineteen years ago, our country experienced one of its darkest days in our history. Today, we remember the lives lost that day, the families who mourn them, and the brave first responders who ran into harm's way to rescue their fellow Americans.

Secretary Ben Carson, September 11, 2020

I look forward to the time when we can be together again, and I can thank each one of you personally. We will get through this difficult time together.

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Region III Recap, September 11, 2020

Region III Recap & HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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